

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of minimizing the cost of using a component of a computer program, a the method comprising steps of;

b) instrumenting the component to gather cost-related information during at least a partial run of the program;

using the cost-related information to estimate a cost for using each of a plurality of explicitly selectable implementations of a component in running the program; and

based on the costs estimated, selecting, at runtime, one of the plurality of explicitly selectable implementations for a subsequent at least partial run of the program.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein a default implementation is used during the at least partial run.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the selecting step ~~(d)~~ is carried out by an other component operable as a controller.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the selecting step is carried out by an application program.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A computer readable medium including computer instructions for carrying out a method of minimizing the cost of using a component of a computer program, the method comprising the steps of:

instrumenting the component to gather cost-related information during at least a partial run of said program;

using the cost-related information to estimate a cost for using each of a plurality of explicitly selectable implementations in running the program; and

based on the costs estimated selecting, at runtime, one of the explicitly selectable implementations for a subsequent at least partial run of the program.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 5, wherein a default implementation is used during the at least partial run.

Claim 7 (original): The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 5, wherein the selecting step is carried out by an other component operable as a controller.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 5, wherein the selecting step is carried out by an application program.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A computer program comprising a plurality of components which interact during running thereof, at least one of the components comprising:

- a) a plurality of explicit selectable alternative implementations;
- b) a common interface and semantics for receiving messages from another one of the components and sending messages thereto;
- c) an instrumentation for gathering cost-related information during at least a partial run of the computer program;
- d) a cost estimator for using the cost-related information to estimate a cost for using each of the explicit selectable alternative implementations; and
- e) a selector for choosing, at runtime, one of the alternative implementations in response to a message received at the interface from one of an application program and another one of the components.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The computer program as set forth in claim 9, wherein one of the alternative implementations comprises a default implementation which is operational before

operation of the selector.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The computer program as set forth in claim 9, the selector being operable to choose an alternative implementation based upon a cost measurement by the instrumentation.

Claim 12 (new): The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of providing the component with the plurality of explicit selectable implementations which share a common component interface and semantics.

Claim 13 (new): The method of claim 5 further comprising a step of providing the component with the plurality of explicit selectable implementations which share a common component interface and semantics.